

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 23-43 are pending in the application, with 23 and 28 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 6-11 and 18-22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claim 43 has been added, support for this amendment can be found in the specification at paragraph [0067]. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 23-27 are allowable. (*See* Office Action, hereinafter "OA," at page 10.)

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6-11, 18-22 and 28-42 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that it is not clear what is meant by "raising the temperature of the mixture. . . below the cloud point." (OA at page 2.)

Solely to advance prosecution, and without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 6-11 and 18-22, rendering moot the rejection as it may have applied to these claims. Solely to advance prosecution, and without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants have amended claim 28 to delete the allegedly confusing phrase from the

claim in an effort to clarify the subject matter of the invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejections as it may apply to claims 28-42 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 6-8, 10, 11 and 18-22

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6-8, 10, 11 and 18-22 under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over International Published Application No. WO 02/00844 ("Evans") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,811,088 ("Hunter"). (OA at page 3.) Solely to advance prosecution and not in acquiescence of any of the Examiner's assertions, claims 1, 6-8, 10, 11 and 18-22 have been canceled, rendering moot the rejection as it may have been applied to these claims. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 9

The Examiner has also rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Evans and Hunter as applied to claims 1-8 and 11-22 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,933,286 ("Emanuele"). (OA at page 4.) Solely to advance prosecution and not in acquiescence of any of the Examiner's assertions, claims 1, 6-8, 10, 11 and 18-22 have been canceled, rendering moot the rejection as it may have been applied to these claims. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

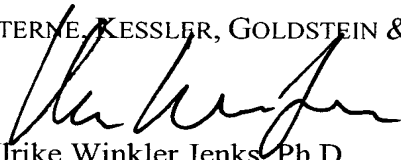
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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